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publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

To the Department of State.

We observe the announcement that the State Department at Washington is now preparing an elaborate defence of the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty, and of the motives which impelled the secret negotiation of that proposed convention.

If such is the case, our friendly advice to the Hon. John Hay is to put away his pen, to tear up his brief, to abandon a discussion serving only to commit the Administration further to a policy which steers straight toward a national calamity, and to go in a manly, generous way to the President and request him to withdraw the treaty from the United States Senate.

The sooner the Secretary of State decides on radical action for the correction of a stupendous blunder, honestly perpetrated in the first instance, but now manifest to the whole country, the better it will be for himself and all others concerned. The better it will be for the interests of the nation, so plainly threatened with irreparable damage; and, to put the lesser consideration after the greater, the better it will be for the renomination and reflection of WILLIAM McKINLEY, future events which ninety-nine Republicans out of a hundred at this time sincerely desire to witness.

The great outbreak of patriotic American sentiment which manifested itself as soon as the true significance of the proposed treaty became generally understood, must have impressed the Secretary. It is not a puff of vagrant wind, shortly to blow itself idly quiet again. It is not the cry of a hostile faction, or the signal for the alignment of political opposition. It has no relation to party tactics. It is American sentiment, and American sentiment so clearly expressed is a safe thing for an American Administration to respect.

Personal feeling counts for nothing against it. The pride of authorship counts for nothing. If it is conceivable that the State Department can persist obstinately in a mistaken policy once adopted, without regard to the tremendous consequences involved, and simply for the sake of making a case for itself, to whom can the country look for the protection of its permanent interests? Where is there a worse enemy of the United States?

There is no humiliation in the frank confession of an error. There is no ignominy in bending to forces beyond the power of any individual to master.

Let the biographer of ABRAHAM LINCOLS consider his duty in the same spirit of magnanimous patriotism in which Lincoln wrote to Thurlow WEED concerning the fallibility of his own human judgment, when he said: "Men are not flattered by being shown that there has been a difference of purpose between the Almighty and themselves. To deny it, however, in this case, is to deny that there is a God governing the world. It is a truth which I thought needed to be told, and, as whatever humiliation there is in it falls most directly on myself, I thought others might afford for me

Poetry and Fact.

The Hon. GEORGE TURNER, the Silver Republican Fusionist Senator from Washington, gave last week the most tender. poetical and affecting description that has yet been made of the Popocratic alligation in 1896. He showed the Democratic party as it "renewed its youth, rejuvenated itself" under the matchless leader, who "was himself an inspiration and a platform." He depicted the process of fusion in words such as too rarely illuminate the pages of our valued contemporary, the Congressional Record:

"Its action was so glorious that another political party, young, strong and vigorous, and formed in despair at the faithlessness of the old parties, melted into its embrace and adopted its platform and its candidate; and hundreds of thousands of men who had never voted anything but the Republican ticket, moved by the manifest deception and trick ery and chicane in their own party, of which they had long been tired and to which they had deter mined to no longer submit, let the scales drop from their eyes, and sprang to the support of the stand-ard erected by the loyalty and the courage and the conviction of a noble, an inspired and a godlike

We hate to recall Mr. TURNER from his seat upon the rainbow to the world of fact. but the Populist party did not melt in the embrace of the Democratic party; the Democratic party melted in the embrace of the People's party. Of the Democratic party was left and is left nothing but the name. The Populists had not become Democrats. The Democrats had become

Expansion in the New Navy Register.

The Navy Register for 1900, just issued by the Navy Department, makes plain in an interesting manner the growth of the Navy. and incidentally shows how greatly this nation has expanded already; it also carries an argument for continuing the building

This expansion is visible chiefly in the list of navy yards and shore stations, though it is to be observed in the list headed " present duty or station," which forms the fourth column of each even-numbered page in the first part of the book. It is chiefly, however, in the part indicated that its effects are to be noticed. On the Asiatic station. though we have only one flag officer, we have thirty-five vessels, ranging from the flagship Brooklyn and the battleship Oregon to the gunboats Basco and Guardoqui. The very names of the gunboats on that station show what has happened to

veles, Mindoro, Panay, Paragua and Samar. In the list of shore stations for the first | two professors in a Presbyterian theological time appears the name of the Island of Guam, in the Ladrones, commanded by Capt. LEARY, with a station ship, though not called by that name, the Yosemite, and a battalion of marines; the naval station of Havana, and the station at Honolulu; the station at San Juan, Puerto Rico, with its station ship Cæsar; and most important of all, the station at Cavité, in our Philippine Islands.

This last has a full force of officials, beginning with a Commander in charge, continuing through the Naval Hospital and the Nautical School at Manila, and reach-Regiment of Marines, commanded by a Colonel, and consisting of three battalions of four companies each. It is seldom that a regiment of marines is formed. The formation of one for service so far away and at such a post, shows the confidence placed in Uncle Sam's "jollies, soldiers and sailors, too.

The Cavité post has a sub-post at Hong Kong, where three of our acquisitions in the shape of gunboats are at present undergoing repairs.

The Register shows practically the same number of officers that the semi-annual Register of July, 1899, showed; but another instance of our expansion appears in the list of warrant machinists, which is printed of churchless agnosticism. for the first time. The names of sixty-one vessels "on the stocks" or otherwise building are also another evidence of the growth of the Navy and of the United States. Altogether, though we have lost the picturesque what we have lost. The new Register marks an epoch in the history of the Navy.

No Canal at All, Unless It Be an American Canal!

It is now almost exactly twenty years since Mr. WILLIAM M. EVARTS, Secretary of State, expressed in a message signed and transmitted by Mr. HAYES to the Senate the following views: The policy of this country is a trans-isthmian canal under American control, and no European power can be permitted to intervene for the protection of it; if existing treaties stand in the way of a canal exclusively our own. negotiations should be entered into to establish the American policy; such a canal would virtually be "a part of the coast line of the United States," and no other great power would fail under similar circumstances to assert control over a work so vitally affecting its interests and welfare. Those views were embraced and re-

iterated by Secretary BLAINE and Secretary FRELINGHUYSEN; they embodied the settled policy of the Republican party and the rooted convictions of the American people. They are repudiated, however, in the Hay-Pauncefote convention, which, except in conceding to the United States the doubtful privilege of constructing operating and policing the isthmian canal at our own expense, reproduces all the obnoxious features of the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. That is why we say that, if the Hay-Pauncef te convention should be ratified by the Senate, a contingency which seems to us incredible, it would become the duty of Congress to refuse to appropriate a penny for the construction of a caual under the provisions of that instrument. So much, at least, we owe to the Pacific States, at present protected against European aggression by the mountain wall which nature has reared at the isthmus. It would be a crime against those commonwealths were we to level that natural rampart un-

der conditions that, in time of war, would

Pacific seaports. We cannot believe that a convention which proposes to place a canal cleaving the American isthmus under the control of a syndicate of European powers, and which forbids us to close it against the warships of a public enemy, will ever be made obligatory on the United States. There are several ways of dealing with a project which would demolish at one blow the natural bulwark of our Pacific States afforded by the isthmus and the moral safeguard of the American continent erected by the Monroe Doctrine. The quickest and simplest mode of redressing an unfortunate blunder preg nant with evil possibilities, a mode that would relieve the President and the Repub lican party from responsibility for an error that, unretrieved, would become a crime, would be for Mr. McKINLEY to recall the Hay-Pauncefote convention for amendment, and to take the whole business of negotiation concerning an interoceanic canal into his own hands. It is possible that such a course might be construed as a rebuff by his subordinates in the State Department, but public duties are not less imperative upon a Chief Magistrate because

they are not always pleasant. One thing is certain, namely, that, in the improbable event of both the President and the Senate assuming responsibility for the Hay-Pauncefote convention, the American people will never suffer its provisions to be enforced. They will instruct their spokesmen in the House of Representatives not to vote a dollar for a canal to be operated under rules that would involve a surrender of the Monroe Doctrine and would place our Pacific cities at the mercy of any great naval power with which we might happen

Why Does He Insist on Troubling the

Presbyterian Church? The New York Presbytery, on Monday, passed resolutions declaring that it "cannot consistently enter upon the further consideration of the matter" of the charges of heresy preferred against Dr. McGIFFERT of the Union Theological Seminary, though it disapproves of his teachings. This disposes finally of his case, so far as that body is concerned.

The ground on which the heresy trial was evaded was that it would be harmful to the peace of the Church, and as the vote by which the resolutions were passed was 77 to 39 the great preponderance of that sentiment in the Presbytery was made manifest. Inasmuch, however, as it is probable that the charges will be carried on appeal to the General Assembly, the supreme judicature of the Presbyterian Church, such an attempt to stifle the inquiry in the interests of outward harmony is not likely to be successful. That body meets at St. Louis in May, and in it, as the precedent of the Briggs trial clearly showed, the conservative spirit outraged by Dr. McGIFFERT is usually

Of course, if the suspension of Dr. BRIGGS from the Presbyterian ministry because of the possibility of electing one is remote, is open his teachings was justified, that of Dr. to obvious criticism. McGIFFERT must follow logically, for he proceeds along substantially the same lines. That the doctrines taught and the methods of criticism pursued by both conflict radically

Callao, Guardoqui, Manila, Manileno, Mari- Confession is also indisputable. Only with | dent, will speak in Boston to-night. Two real a mental reservation discreditable to these seminary can they pledge themselves to the adhesion to that standard required by the constitution of the school. Moreover, Dr. Briggs is no longer a Presbyterian, but

an Episcopalian. It is hard to see how the manifest heresy of Dr. McGIFFERT can be kept from the consideration of the General Assembly in May. Consistently the Presbyterian Church must proceed to deal with him as it dealt with Dr. BRIGGS, and as the Roman Catholic Church, through Cardinal VAUGHAN, dealt with Prof. MIVART, unless it is prepared to transform its standards of ing the large Marine Battalion, or rather | faith and doctrine or to give them a wholly

new interpretation. Dr. McGIPPERT, however, can relieve the General Assembly of the necessity of disturbing its peace by dealing with his heresy. He can retire voluntarily from its ministry and consequently from its jurisdiction; and honestly he ought to do so. If he does not believe Presbyterian doctrine, except with mental reservations, he is pursuing a deceitful, a dishonorable ourse in remaining in its ministry, and there is no sort of excuse for his conduct, since it has been demonstrated in the case of Dr. Briggs that he would be welcomed to another ecclesiastical home and would not be obliged to go out into the cold world

A Century of Referees. Many law reformers, who think our Judges might select better referees than they do, advocate the establishment of a 'Inspectors of Live Oak" of forty years | designated body of lawyers from among ago, we appear to have lost nothing else of whom the courts shall be compelled to sevalue, and to have gained much in place of | lect all referees, in cases where the parties

cannot make a selection by consent. To this end a bill has been introduced in the Legislature by Senator RAINES. It provides for the designation of 100 lawyers, by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in this city, to form a list from which the trial Judges shall appoint all referees, in the absence of an agreement of the litigants. The scheme is a bad one and ought to be rejected.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court is not of such a superior character to the trial Judges as to warrant the Legislature in depriving the latter of the power to appoint referees in the exercise of their own discretion, and subjecting them to restrictions imposed by the Justices of Appeal. If the plan is suitable for this county and judicial department, it is equally suitable for the rest of the State; and what would the bar and judiciary in the seven other judicial districts say to its adoption in their particular bailiwicks?

The plan contemplates the creation of a body of favored lawyers, like the old Masters in Chancery in this State, whose practices gave rise to such scandals in the legal profession that the people at last abolished the office.

Its adoption would prevent the appoint ment of newly admitted practitioners as referees. Yet young lawyers of good character are fully qualified to act as referees in foreclosure and partition suits, and there is no reason why all of them should not be eligible for such appoint-

The test question is that which we have already suggested, though, and that is: Why will referees be more wisely chosen by CHARLES H. VAN BRUNT, GEORGE C. BARRETT, MORGAN J. O'BRIEN, GEORGE L. INGRAHAM, WILLIAM RUMSEY, EDWARD PATTERSON and CHESTER B. McLAUGHLIN. than by the seventeen trial Justices of the Supreme Court in this county, who have not had the good fortune to be designated by the Governor to sit in the Appellate Division? give the battleships of our enemy access to

It is a political mistake to magnify the appellate branch of the court of general jurisdiction in this State at the expense of the Judges of first instance. The present system is a good one if the proper relation between the two divisions can be maintained. We believe this is fairly well accomplished in other parts of the State: but there is too much of a tendency in this judicial department to belittle the position of the trial Judges.

Let us, then, have no century association of referees in this town.

Mr. Daly of Hoboken.

In a speech in the House of Representatives on January 19, the official copy of which was printed on February 9, the Hon. WILLIAM D. DALY of New Jersey made this curious assertion:

"It is a notorious fact that during the Presidential election of 1896 the Republican party subsidized and bribed the press."

We learn from the modest autobiography of the Hon. WILLIAM D. DALY in the "Congressional Directory "that he "as a criminal lawyer stands at the head of the New Jersey bar, and has, through his professional and legislative career, become familiar with every detail of Constitutional and municipal law affecting New Jersey." So profound a lawyer must be supposed to know something about evidence. He must know that what is not a fact is not made a fact by asserting that it is "notorious. Has he any evidence to support the charge which he brings against the press and the Republican party? Is his "notorious fact" anything more than a feverish hallucination of the overwrought New Jersey Bryanite imagination?

But the head of the New Jersey criminal bar is not feverish. If he repeats the hallucinations of others it must be supposed that he has proofs. Can the Hon. WILLIAM D. Daly prove his accusation, or will he admit himself to be a common Bryan

Wherever the Democratic National Convention may be called to meet this year, one town is excluded from Democratic consideration. That is London, Kentucky.

In calculating the political effect of the Hay-l'auncefote Treaty, the first question for the Republican party to consider is not as to what percentage of the party organization can be relied on to stand by it. The great question is: How sharp and deadly

a weapon will it put in the hands of the Some wag has introduced into the Texas House of Representatives a resolution "greatly deploring the degeneracy of the gentleman

from Corsteana," which his name is the Hon.

ROGER QUARLES MILLS. Thus is the plutoerat chaser of other days himself pursued. CADE and REEMS are the rival Republican candidates for Governor of Louisiana. The former represents the Lily-White faction, and the latter the Custom-House Republicans. The political expediency of running two candidates. in a State in which under restricted suffrage

Col. BRYAN's travels through New England have stirred another liberator of the oppressed to go there. The Hon. JoB HABRIus; they are the Albav, Basco, Calamianes, with the letter and spirit of the Westminster MAN, the Socialist Labor candidate for Presi- POTTSVILLE, Pa., Feb. 12.

Presidential candidates within a week or two of each other are almost too much for Boston. May she have strength to stand this new

excitement! That considerable portion of the Money Power, the deposits of the New York savings banks, grew to the extent of about thirty millions last year. Thus, in the mournful language of the Bryanite economists, do the poor

New accomplishments of SHARESPEARE are discovered every day. Mr. W. P. ADKINSON. F. T. S., is lecturing upon "Theosophy According to SHAKESPEARE." According to Mr. AD-KINSON, SHAKESPEARE "teaches the macrocosm and the microcosm, involution and evolution. the theosophical origin of the cosmos, th seven planes of consciousness and the law of

karma. SHAKESPEARE also teaches poker. For ex

" I dare draw as soon as another man " I with sword will open."

" Straight let us seek. He knew the games as well as the planes.

The discharge of thought at the Chicago Anti-Trust Conference is tremendous; and the meeting might last a year without exhausting the orators. These conferences should be held more frequently. They are a playground fo the cranks

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The scene of the greatest activity seems for the moment to be in the neighborhood of Colesberg. The British and Boers have for the ast two days been contesting positions northwest and east of Colesberg and Rensburg with the result, by the last accounts, that the Boer had pushed back both wings of the British ful whether Rensburg, the British head quarters, might not have to be abandoned by them. But there are grounds for believ ing that the manœuvres on the British side at least, are false, and intended to draw the Boers on in order to strike some decisive blow at their rear in the Free State from a quarte not indicated, but probably not unconnected with the British occupation of Zsutpan Drift, short distance to the eastward of Ramah on the Free State border about fifteen miles from the Orange River railway bridge, which took place some weeks ago and is again reported in de spatches yesterday. Such a policy is just the one that would be pursued if it is intended to strike at the rear of the in front of Gen. French by a sudden movements from the west toward Fauresmith and to the railway line between Norvals Pont and Bloemfontein. The Boers are said to be in considerable strength around Colesberg and to have some heavy guns, but they would have to be very much stronger than they probably are if they contemplate any movement on Naauwpoort, or toward Hanover on the railway between the latter place and De

In Natal, Gen. Buller is said to be again at his old quarters at Chieveley, and a Durban rumor speaks of the Boers having been driven from the Ihnlawe Mountain by the British artillery fire. This, if correct, would explain previous reports of the Boers having appeared in force at Fort Wylie and other points along the Tugeta in the neighborhood of Colenso, and may be preparatory to some attempt to get round the Boers in the angle of the river north of Colenso, Although Durban reports are not remarkable for their accuracy, there is an appearance of truth about this one, and further ecounts should bring something interesting. Lord Roberts's arrival at the Modder River appears to have been the signal for a reorganization of the forces at that place, and there are ndications that there has been an augmentation of the strength of the division, necessitating the formation of an additional one numbered the Ninth, which has been placed under the command of Gen. Sir H. E. Colville. That and the departure of the foreign military attachés from Cape Town for the Modder River lead to the expectation that the next British

move will be from there in the direction of A despatch given out by the British War Office yesterday states that Kimberley was bombarded all day Feb. 8, and that a slight infantry engagement lasting two hours took place at Alexandersfontein on the south side of the town toward Spytfontein. The Boer positions on that side are very strong and oppose both a sortie from or an advance to Kimberley from the Modder River. From the constitution of the force which Lord Roberts has assembled at the Modder River. appears likely that he contemplates a double movement, a direct advance, with a flanking force making a wide detour. The Boers seem o have been anticipating something of the kind, as they have been reported busily at work extending their intrenchments beyond their

eft at Magersfontein. Of Gen. Gatagre and his division there has been no news since the repulse of the Boers from the railway line between Sterkstroom and Indwe, but Gen. Brabant's address to his men before leaving Queenstown leads to the expectation of active work in that quarter before

The last operations across the Tugela cost the British 411 in killed, wounded and missing, of which 24 were killed and 5 missing. The S. A. R. Staats Courant of Dec. 20 publishes a list of the names of the republicans killed, wounded and captured at Magersfontein. There were 48 killed, of whom nearly 30 per cent, were Scandinavians: 71 wounded, of whom a few only were toreigners, besides 12 wounded Scandinavians taken prisoners and three who died in hospital, making a total loss on the Boer side of 51 dead and 83 wounded. The British loss was 1,067 in killed, wounded and prisoners.

MORE STAFF OFFICERS NEEDED. A Serious State of Affairs Developed by the Philippines Campaign

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.-The Secretary of War will send to Congress shortly special recommendations for an increase in the number of officers of the different staff departments of the Army. The campaign in the Philippines has developed such a state of affairs among the flicers of the staff that immediate legislation is required to place the different departments

in proper working order. Within the past few months reports have come to the War Department of the breaking down physically of many of the officers stationed in the Philippines. This has been particularly true of the Medical and Commissary bepartments. The latter is now working with a much smaller force of Regular army officers than it had for an army of only 25,000 men before the war with Spain. Before the war it had twenty-two officers for duty and this number has now been reduced to eighteen. The reduction has been caused as follows: Commissary General Eagan, suspended: Major Bilss, detailed at Havana as Collector of Customs: Major Brainard, invalided, home from Manila, and Major Oskaloosa M. Smith, retired. Acting Commissary General Veston has represented to Secretary Root the necessity of having at least eight or ten additional commissary officers for the proper working of the department. down physically of many of the officers

sary officers for the proper working of the department.

Surgeon-General Sternberg of the Medical Department has explained to the Secretary of War that he has been compelled to take from many of the garrisons in the United States their regular officers to provide Regular army surgeons for duty in the Philippines. In addition Col. Woodhull, who was at Manila, has been compelled to secure an indefinite leave owing to his physical condition and has been succeeded by Col. Greenlesf. To provide a sufficient force of surgeons for the Philippines. Surgeon-General Sternberg has been compelled to resort to the employment of additional contract doctors. Of these thirty have left for the Philippines within the past six weeks and forty more will be sent within the next thirty days.

weeks and forty more will be sent within the next thirty days.

Secretary Boot has not yet determined upon the number of officers which he will recommend for each of the staff departments. He explained to-day that the same condition as shown in the Commissary and Medical Departments prevails in the Adjutant-General's Department, the Ordnance Corps, the Quartermaster's Department and the Signal Corps.

Outlying Fame. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Pale Alto Democrats have nominated Miles Kott for

THE CONVICTION OF MOLINEUX. Representative Legal Opinion on the Con-

duct of the Prosecution and the Court. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I venure to say that the letter in your issue of today, signed "D," and evidently written by a person of legal training, reflects accurately the riews of the vast majority of the lawyers who have followed with any degree of care the course of the Molinaux trial.

That there will be a reversal is the general expectation; that the trial was unfair and the verdict unjust-in that it was not warranted by the evidence adduced—is the general opinion. Despite his repeated assertion that he was a juasi-judicial officer, and was acting as such. the conduct and attitude of the Assistant District Attorney prosecuting was the revers

of judicial. Carried away by an excess of zeal. founded perhaps on his own belief in the prisner's guilt: actuated also, it is not unlikely, by the desire to have his own opinion vindicated by a conviction, the prosecutor seems to have cast aside all idea of fairness toward the ccused, and to have pushed forward unrelentingly and vindictively for a conviction, no matter by what means obtained.

No lawyer, reading the daily reports of the trial, could help being astonished-not to say astounded—at the latitude allowed to the prosecutor by the presiding Justice and at the scant consideration shown for the rights of the accused. There are many things of a surprising nature

onnected with this trial. Perhaps not the least surprising is this: In all criminal cases, and especially in all capital cases, one of the things first sought for s the motive. The human mind is reluctant

to believe that any one, not insane, will commit murder without the existence of an adequate motive In the Molineux case the District Attorney recognized the necessity of proving some adeuate motive impelling Molineux to attempt the murder of Cornish. He found there had been a quarrel-of a trivial nature, so far as the evidence shows-over some club matters,

which had engendered bad feeling between the two men, the exchange of epithets, and the resignation of Molineux from the club. That this quarrel formed an absolutely and ridiculously inadequate motive for attempting a crime of such enormity as murder was evilently recognized by the presecutor, and with the non-existence of an adequate motive there was danger of an acquittal. The prosecutor, therefore, bent his energies to getting before the jury the death of Barnet, claimed to have been accomplished by methods similar to those employed for the attempted murder of Cornish. and to getting before the jury the alleged existence of such relations between Barnet Molineux and the latter's present wife as might form a sufficient motive for the removal, by murder, of Barnet. After a course of vacillation and indecision, not entirely creditable to judicial acumen and firmness, the Court yielded to the repeated importunities of the prosecutor and allowed such testimony-at one time however, admonishing him that "motive in the Barnet case was not motive in the Adams

What connection there possibly could be between the relations (assuming they were as claimed by the prosecutor) existing between Barnet, Molineux and the latter's wife to furnish any motive for the attempted murder of Cornish by Molineux passes my comprehension; yet, in his summing up, the prosecutor was allowed to point to Molineux's wife as the concrete form and expression of the motive." as I now recall his words.

In the recent case of People against Fielding. the Court of Appeals in the course of its opinon says:

"Language which might be permitted to counseling imming up a civil action cannot with propriety be used by a public prosecutor, who is a quast-judicial officer, representing the people of the State, and presumed to act impartially in the interests of justice. If he lays aside the impartiality that should characterize his official actions to become a heated partisan, and by vituperation of the prisoner and appeals to prejudice, seeks to obtain a conviction at all hazards, he ceases to properly represent the pubic interest, which demands no victim, and asks no conviction through the aid of passion, sympathy, o

Who can doubt that the reference to Molineux's wife as the "concrete form and expression of the motive" was made in the desire to procure a conviction at all hazards, and was absolutely improper in the summing up of a Monneux was charged with the murder of Mrs. Adams and the attempted murder of Cornish-not with the murder of Barnet?

NEW YORK, Feb. 12,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I would like to know the reason for the new style of teaching in the schools to-day. A few years ago pupils were taught the ABC as the foundation stone of education, and after that spelling, reading and writing

To-day they are not taught the ABC at all, but instead are told to copy from the blackboard those things which are placed there. Now, in everything else, we hear of the A B C-the A B C of music. the ABC of bookkeeping, &c.; but when it comes to the A B C of the English language, why, that is not at all necessary, according to our new school of teaching.

From the beginning of time up to the present this world has advanced in wisdom and knowledge, and the people owe their education to the system which was in vogue. We have had some great men in the past, and they, along with all the rest of us, worried along with the A B C system. To-day that is not good enough.

I fail to see the advantage of making a child write a whole lot of stuff which he or she does not understand. It may be all right, but I don't think so. Per haps they think that every child should be taught the A B C at home. I think this system is about on a par with Mr. Kearney's system of signs on the lamp

When a man begins to build a house he lave his foundation first and then builds his house. This scheme seems to me like putting the roof up first and then building down. Of course, I may be wrong according to the genius who conceived this wonderful system, but I am only an ordinary being, who is seeking a little enlightenment. JOHN BARRY. New York, Feb. 13. 313 East Twenty first st.

Can This Possibly Be True?

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: I am credibly informed that one of the best-known priests of the Roman Catholic Church in this State is a freethinker, and a rising young Episcopalian parson in this town is bewarling his fate that he sacrificed his young years in fitting himself for a "calling" which he has confessed he believes is false. They are "secret heretics." but what are they to do? The are untitted for anything else and they prefer to keep up appearances. BRIDGEPORT, Conn., Feb. 11.

Trivialities as Evidence of the Truth of Spiritualism. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your editorial

of this date on "A Professorship for Mrs. Piper" discredits your fairness. The main object of any comnunication coming from the Otherside is to prove there is a life for all of us after death. That some such communications should be trivial shouldn't condemn them. Trifling things, as parts of a whole, are often the most convinent. Lawyers in courts labor for hours to get out some minor and, apparently, insignificant item.

The great question to be answered is: "If a man die, shall be live again?" What will convince you and me and all inquirers of the affirmative? Must everything come in weighty statements as though from philosophers and sages?

After over thirty years of painful doubt of a life after death I want proof; and if this proof comes, in part or in whole, from the simple fock as well as the wise who have gone becore us, I shall welcome it. If there is no proof, and Buechner's Foore and Matter' is our final answer, then let us "Curse God and die, or, adopt Schopenhauer's universal suicide or universal; echacy.

Anyway, let us be fair.

New York, Feb. 13. shouldn't condemn them. Triffing things, as parts

Nature Prodigal to Fort Wayne Lambs TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-Sir: At Fort Vayne, Ind., a few days ago, in the store of L. J Jourdan, I saw a lamb with four perfect eyes, two at the top of the head and one on each side; two legs front and four perfect legs back, two tails and two bodies at the back, and also two tails. J. M. H. TERRE HAUTE, Feb. 10.

From the Atlanta Constitution

Can any one name a candidate for the second place who has as large a following and as much influence

THE AMERICAN CANAL. A Striking Exposure of the False Parallel With the Case of Suez.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Nobody likes fairness so much as our dear cousins across the water. Some omissions in the Hay-Pauncefote treaty must, therefore, be ascribed to the excessive kindness of our Plenipotentiary. Amendments lie with the Senate, whose duty seems to be to make those which I shall proceed to indicate

One idea of the treaty, evidently, is that there

shall be no military guardianship over the canal. Now, the nearest point of our territory, Key West, is about a thousand miles from Greytown. Therefore, the British should have no fortifled positions within that distance This is so fair that we cannot suppose any Engishman would now think of establishing naval station in Honduras or strengthening their posts in Jamaica. Still, it is well that future generations of British statesmen should not be left with this temptation before them. Hence the first of the proposed amendments. Again, the idea governing the regulation of our canal is modelled upon the Suez Canal. Therefore, in return, the Suez Canal should be mod elled upon this one. The approaches to this one are to be open and free from all military establishments. Therefore, the approaches to the Suez Canal should also be equally free. The Suez Canal is only one narrow place in a long channel between the Atlantic and Indian oceans, in which other narrow places are at Gibraitar and Aden. Hence the second pro posed amendment. To these is added a third. containing the enacting clause. They are not stated in formal language, details being left to experts. They are, then:

1. The Government of Great Britain binds itself not construct any naval station or fortification or miliary establishment of any kind within a radius of thousand miles from each end of the new canal, and shall dismantle, destroy or remove all those now in

Listence within that region. 2. The Government of Great Britain binds itself to dismantle, destroy or remove all its forts and stablishments at Gibraltar and Aden, and not to construct any other or others at either of thos laces or at any other place or places on the line o traffic by water between those two points.

3. Unless all such forts and establishments above referred to are destroyed and demolished at th opening of the new canal, six months' notice of the time being given by the United States, this treaty and all other treaties on the subject shall be null and void.

But I forget. The United States is not a party to the agreement governing the Suez Canal. Then why should Great Britain or any other European country be a party to the con truction or regulation of the Nicaragua Canal?

To the Editor of The Sun - Sir: The miserable Hay-Pauncefote canal treaty stinks in the nostrils of the people. The Secretary of State after a year's toll has succeeded in breathing new life into the wretched Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. England herself knew and acknowledged that it was dead, because by her own acts she had killed it; but at the same time she was cunningly working to revive the dead body. Americans with brains in their heads now see how well Sir Julian succeeded n taking Mr. Hay into camp. This is merely another illustration of how our Ambassadors to England are hypnotized, and when lulled into sleep their pockets are rifled. Poor Bayard died in England. Hay did manage to return, but he was so far gone he could not overcome the spell and had to die here Choate, from reports of his diplomatic service.

be able to try a case or make an after-dinner speech, the two things he could do when here, We take off our hats to Sir Julian. He is a dandy. We commiserate Mr. Hay. He has wasted a year's labor and done the American people, unless the Senate protects them, an ROBERT S. BRIGHT. rreparable injury.

is not any too robust, and will probably be so

noculated before he returns that he will not

THE PULPIT.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12.

Its Privileges and Its Responsibilities as Called Up by Dr. Broughton's Slandering. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: If the Rev. Dr. Broughton had insulted a woman on the street or in a car, he would probably have been chastised on the spot. But when he stood in a pulpit and maligned a whole class of women, not even a voice, much less a fist, was raised in protest. This does not prove that th cowards, nor that they shared the reverend speaker's sentiments. It merely shows the pree of the vicious custom that protects a

force of the vicious custom that protects a clergyman from immediate contradiction, no matter what he says.

No other person who talks in public enjoys this immunity from prompt criticism. A stump speaker cannot ignore the questions and sarcasms hurled at him from the surging crowd in front of bim. Interruptions are in order at a political gathering. The honorable member from Spuyten Duyvil knows that as soon as he finishes his speech his fellow-legislator from Morris Dock is at liberty to tear his arguments into rags. Counsel for the prosecution is keenly watched and frequently brought to book by his learned friend who conducts the defence. The rulings of the trial Judge are subject to review by an appellate tribunal.

But the clargyman knows that a cert icon.

ducts the defence. The rulings of the trial Judge are subject to review by an appellate tribunal.

But the clergyman knows that a cast-iron convention closes the mouths of his beloved brethren. One would think "the house of God" is the last place in the world where slander, studied and venomous, should pass unrebuked. The very reverse is the fact, and while it continues to be the fact such fellows as this Broughton will cackle by the hour, unrestrained by any sense of responsibility.

Broughton, says The Sun of to-day, "has no knowledge" upon which to base his foul accusation. Of course he hasn't; but what will become of pulpit oratory if the orators are confined to matters they know something about? A clergyman falls readily into habits of inexact statement and slovenly reasoning because so much of his time is given up to the discussion of things that neither he nor anybody else understands. The nature and purposes of God; the origin and destiny of man; the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting—what can the right reverends and wrong reverends of every order do to make these mysteries plain?

A fool brayed in a mortar is not parted from his folly. Broughtons will be Broughtons, yet I believe that the extravagances of the pulpit would be desirably toned down if, after each sermon, opportunity were given for question and comment. Let any member of the congregation be free to challenge the elergyman's assertions and to dispute his conclusions. This plan would tend to make preachers cautious and thorough. It might involve a cutting of rhetorical flowers in the interest of brevity, and, that the service might not be too long, such purely sensous joys as an elaborate offertory might have to be cut out. But would not moderation and exactness in the pulpit be worth the sacrifice?

Dr. Leyds at Paris.

Dr. Leyds at Paris.

From the London Truth, The "diplomatic dinner" to which Dr. Leyds was invited at the Elysee was an annual one given in compliment to the small States of the world. Even Hayti, Monaco and San Marino are represented at it. The Ambas adors are invited, but are scarcely expected to attend. The American Ambassador atnded. I dare say he wanted to study Leyds, who aks careworn, but is extremely self-possessed. He a native of Java. A tropical climate has given him a touch of graceful case that is not Batavian. He stands well being button-holed, says what is best under the circumstances to say, and seems to have diplomatic intuition. The face might be described as a razor face; and yet he has almost the same proale as the poet Kirke White. It was a member of the Dutch Reformed Church who recommended Dr. Leyds to President Krüger. The introduction took place just as the Doctor had obtained the university degree. He is a man of ability and improves with be, under all circumstances, a safe pilot.

Br'er Rabbit's View of the Rabbit's-Foot Theory.

From the Century From the Century.

An' dat rabbit he say ter hesse f, say he;
"Al' yea' long I hea'n der niggan man say,
Whenever he's walkin' along dis way,
Laffin' 'Kirvie'l' as he staps has knee.
'I cotch a rabbit's foot off wiy ma knife!
I ent dat rabbit's foot home ter ma wife!
I tek dat rabbit's foot home ter ma wife!
I say, 'Ma heney, now der good luck's here;
When you's got a rabbit's foot, den no fear!"
Laffin' 'Kirvie'l' as der banjos thrum,
An' der nizwah man's wife she dance an' sing,
'Oh, a labout's foot is der linekiest t'ing!"

Der rabbit he sat by der live-oak tree, An' he sav ter hesse'f, der rabbit say he, "The had fo' rabbit foots all ma bo'n days, But didn't 'pear ter bring good luck ma ways!"

DEATH OF A GREAT ENGINEER.

Mr. Brandt Dies White Digging the Simplon

Tunnel. comes from Switzerland of the death of Mr. Brandt, who was the chief engineer in charge of the work of digging the Simplon annel through the Alps, which will open a new route between north and south Europe. It will be the longest tunnel in the world. When Mr. Brandt died three and one-tenth miles of the excavation had been completed. The total length of the tunnel will be twelve and twoifths miles. The St. Gothard tunnel is nine and three-tenths and the Mont Cenis tunnel

eight miles long. The work is being done with hydraulic drilling machines invented by Mr. Brandt himself. With the aid of these powerful machines, which engineers had come from far and near to examine, he hoped to complete the tunnel in less than the contract time. Work was begun on Nov. 13, 1898 and the contract calls for its completion in five and a half years. The contract calls for a fine of 5,000 france a day if the time limit is exceeded, while a gratuity of the same amount a day is to be paid if the tunnel is completed before the expiration of the stipulated period. Mr. Brandt has pushed the work and was considerably ahead of the time schedule when he died. It is obvious that strikes might prove very disastrous and the fact that a ten-days' strike had just ended, only a fortnight before the death of

the engineer, may have hastened his demise. Another of Mr. Brandt's inventions is in successful operation. It is a machine for removing the débris after the blasts. It throws a powerful stream of water, by jerky impulses, into the stones loosened by the blast, and thereby washes away the dirt. He had also his own system of ventilation which he had proven, in the mines of Spain, to be effective.

Mr. Brandt was also in charge, in 1867, of excavating the Ariberg tunnel, through which railroad communication was made between Switzerland and Austria. He invented his hydraulie drill for this work, and the original machine is now in the Museum of the Austrian State Railroads in Vienna. His death is regarded as a great loss to the present colossal enterprise, but it is proposed to adhere to his methods and it is thought the tunnel will he completed within contract time.

WE ARE AN ASIATIC POWER. President Schurman on the Results and

Duties of Expansion. ITHACA, N. Y., Feb. 13.-President J. G. Schur-

man of Cornell spoke on "Expansion" at the Lincoln Day dinner of the Ithaca Business Men's Association. He said that the issue that elected men to the highest offices only twelve years ago, the issue over finding markets for our home products is not now heard from among those very men or their party. The markets of the world are open to us and are receiving our products. The Spanish war gave us the solution of that question. That war was waged to drive from Cuba an effete European

waged to drive from Cuba an effete European power, a government of tyranny. The irony of fate has followed up our late war and, paradox though it be, we are now an Asiatic power with new outlets for our products.

"These are hard facts," he went on, "and as strange as they are true, Where England and Germany kept us from competition it is now all our own and the lion's share is coming with it. China has opened the doors of its four hundred million souls for us. Russia, France, Germany and England were dividing that great Empire as Africa was divided. We might have lost it. Englishmen were in despair. Their policy was rideuled by Russia, Germany and France. But the United States alone opened the doors of China and accomplished one of the greatest achievements in her history.

one of the greatest achievements in her history.

"Our flag is anchored in the Pacific: it is floating over the Philippines. Henceforth was are to be on equal footing in Asia with Russia, Germany, France and England. But our mission is not alone to make money there, although Providence dropped the islands into our lap. Eight million people with immortal souls have been redeemed from the tyranny of ages and our mission is to share with them our highest American civilization and liberty. Burke said that an Englishman can never argue another Englishman into slavery. So with Americans. I declare on this day, sacred to us all, the day made a holiday in memory of the great Lincoln, that the Philippines were not given to us for any mercenary purpose, but to extend to them our noblest political institutions. It is for us a divine mission. They will accept our flag, our education and then our mission will be accomptained?" accept our flag, our education and then our mission will be accomplished."

NEW STAR ROUTE ORDER.

A Blow Struck at the Contractors Who Are Known as Professional Bidders. VASHINGTON, Feb. 13.-The Postma General has long sought to obtain from Copgress the right to refuse all bids for star route contracts except such as come from contractors living on or near to the routes concerned. A large class of professional bidders

has sprung up within the last twenty years.

These men obtain contracts by the thousand and sublet them at about \$10 a year less than their own proposals, a practice which makes it needlessly difficult for the Department to compal good corrier. needlessly difficult for the Department to compel good service.
On looking into the subject recently, Second Assistant Postmaster-General Schallenberger has concluded that the Department has already the authority desire! All contracts provide that the bidder shall submit "sufficient guarantees for faithful performance." and Gen. Schallenberger has decided that no one who lives away from the route involved can give such guarantee. Accordingly a general notice was published to-day announcing that no star route contracts will be awarded in the future except to contractors who live on or adjacent to the routes. This is not to apply, however, to contractors who intend to move mear the route or to the reletting of a route made necessary by a failure under an existing

ontract. NEW RATING OF NAVAL VESSELS. A Bill Making Displacement the Basis

made necessary by a failure under an existing

Reported to the Senate. WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.- While the United States Navy is in every sense modern it is still officially classified under a law passed in 1858. before the advent of ironelad vessels. That act rated as vessels of the first-class steamships which carried forty guns or more, as second-class those carrying less than forty and more than twenty guns and as third-class

and more than twenty guns and as third-class those carrying less than twenty guns.

A bill reported favorably to-day by the Senate Committee on Naval Affairs has for its object a classification of the vessels on an up-to-date basis. It provides that vessels of 5,000 tons displacement or more shall be classed as first rates, those of 3,000 tons or more and less than 5,000 tons as second rates, those of 1,000 tons or more and less than 3,000 tons as third rates and those of less than 1,000 tons as fourth rates. The bill also prescribes the grade of officers who shall command in each class thus: For first and second rates, Captains; second and third rates, Commanders and Lieutenants; torpedo boats and other unclassified vessels, officers below the grade of Lieutenant-Commander.

The "Addicks" Case in Delaware. From the Raltimore S.

WILMINGTON, Del., Feb. 6.-The Regular Republican State Committee in session at Dover to-day rejected the proposal of the Addicks State Committee for the unification of the party and emphatically declared that no plan for harmony would be considered by them unless Mr. Addicks was repudiated by the Union Republicans. The reply of the Regulars, which was sent to Union Chairman Allea this evening, is a seathto Union Chairman Allee this evening, is a seathing review of Mr. Addicks's political history in this State. It charges him with having held in the election of Col. Dupont as Senator, with having threatened to bury the party 10,000 fathoms deep unless Addicks were elected Senator, and with having boasted that he contributed to the election of R. J. Reynolds, a Democrat, as diovernor of the State. The reply adopted by the Regulars ends as follows:

"In view of the facts above stated, we are forced of necessity to doubt your good faith and sincerity and to question your motives. When you issue a manifesto and call it a plan for unity and harmony, we are forced to conclude that this alleged plan, like all your previous propositions, is nothing but another well-devised scheme to benefit Mr. Addicks, In view of the connection of your organization with Mr. Addicks, who is the keystone of your party, we have to decline your proposition, and make as a condition precedent to the entertainment by us of any proposition from your organization looking to a unification of the party that you repudiate Mr. Addicks and declare yourselves entirely free from his influence and all connection with him.

"Uson compliance with this condition we shall be pleased at all times to confer with you upon party questions and we have not the slightest doubt that we shall then he able to agree upon a plan for harmony, for with the repudiation and removal of Mr. Addicks our differences are at an end."

Addicks leaders now declare they will make no more overtures for harmony and it will be not the finish. ing review of Mr. Addicks's political history in